

# Section 14 Victim-Suspect Relationship

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**Type of VS social relationship 1: Rela1****Type of VS social relationship 2: Rela2**

Name	Definition
Rela1	Description of relationship of the victim to the suspect
Rela2	Description of second relationship of the victim to the suspect

**Uses**

Data describing the relationship between the victim and the suspect are useful for developing and evaluating prevention programs and for characterizing various forms of family and intimate violence.

**Discussion**

This variable will be assigned by the abstractor for each victim-suspect (V-S) pair in an incident based on review of the CME report. The NVDRS software automatically “populates” the V-S Relation Table with victim-suspect pairs. Each person with a Ptype of 1 or 3 (“victim” or “both”) is paired with each person with a Ptype of 2 or 3 (“suspect” or “both”). In complex incidents (which will be relatively rare), there will be times when a suspect in an incident is not a suspect for a particular victim. For example, if a young man stabs a bartender and is then shot himself by a police officer, there are two victims in the incident (the bartender and the young man) and two suspects (the young man and the police officer). Code the relationship between the bartender and the police officer as 88 (not applicable) since the police officer wasn’t a suspect in the first killing. Up to two codes can be selected for each victim-suspect pair. Use the second variable for cases such as when a victim is both a schoolmate and a rival gang member.

Use the following sentence as a guide for selecting the appropriate description of the relationship: the victim is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the suspect. For example, when a parent kills a child, the relationship is “child” not “parent.” (“The victim is the child of the suspect.”) Homosexual relationships should be coded in the same way as heterosexual relationships (e.g., “girlfriend” or “boyfriend”). The homosexual or heterosexual nature of the relationship will be inferred by the sex of the victim and suspect.

For this data element, an acquaintance is someone with or about whom the victim has had some prior interaction or knowledge. A stranger is someone with whom the victim has had no prior interaction before the event that culminated in the violent injury. For example, code the following scenario as “stranger”: two individuals who do not know each other play pool together, argue, then one stabs the other.

When more than one offender is working in concert in an incident (as in a driveby shooter and his or her driver), code the victim’s relationship to each offender. Do not use 88s in this situation to identify the offender who did not actually fire the weapon because all offenders working in concert are considered offenders on the Supplementary Homicide Report and in police reports. If the nature of the relationship is unknown, code “Rela1” as 99. If all relevant information regarding the relationship is captured in “Rela1”, then code “Rela2” as 88 for: “All relevant information about relationship is already provided in Relation 1.”

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Rela1	Victim to Suspect Relation 1:	SV_Relation	Number	2	LR/LR	PR/CME
Rela2	Victim to Suspect Relation 2:	SV_Relation	Number	2	LR/LR	PR/CME

**Response Options:**

Rela1 and Rela2

- 1 Spouse
- 2 Ex-spouse
- 3 Girlfriend or boyfriend
- 7 Ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend
- 8 Girlfriend or boyfriend, unspecified whether current or ex
- 10 Parent
- 11 Child
- 12 Sibling
- 13 Grandchild
- 14 Grandparent
- 15 In-law
- 16 Stepparent
- 17 Stepchild
- 18 Child of suspect's boyfriend/girlfriend
- 19 Intimate partner of suspect's parent (e.g., teenager kills his mother's boyfriend)
- 20 Foster child
- 21 Foster parent
- 29 Other family member (e.g., cousin, uncle, etc.)
- 30 Babysitree (e.g., child killed by babysitter)
- 31 Acquaintance
- 32 Friend
- 33 Roommate (not intimate partner)
- 34 Schoolmate
- 35 Current or former work relationship (e.g., co-worker, employee, employer)
- 36 Rival gang member
- 44 Other person, known to victim
- 45 Stranger
- 50 Victim was injured by law enforcement officer
- 51 Victim was law enforcement officer injured in the line of duty
- 88 Suspect is not a suspect for this victim but for another victim in incident
- 99 Relationship unknown

**Data Standards or Guidelines**

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## Evidence of ongoing abuse: Abuse Caretaker of victim: CareTk

Name	Definition
Abuse	Evidence of ongoing abuse of victim by caretaker
CareTk	Was this suspect a caretaker of this victim

### Uses

These variables will help identify deaths resulting from intimate partner abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and other forms of caretaker violence.

### Discussion

*Abuse:* For each victim-suspect pair in which (1) the offender was a caretaker of the victim or (2) the offender was a current or ex-intimate partner, indicate whether the data sources document a history (or suspected history) of abuse of this victim by the suspect. The evidence of ongoing abuse may be suspected but not confirmed. For example, if the CME report states: “Husband shot wife after learning that she was having an affair. No history of previous police visits to the residence or restraining orders; neighbors indicate no previous problems,” code Abuse as “no” to indicate that there is no evidence in the record of ongoing abuse. If the CME report states: “Stepparent killed child during an altercation. Family investigated by Child Protective Services last year,” code Abuse as “yes”.

*CareTk:* After indicating the relationship for each victim-suspect pair (Rela1 from previous page), determine whether the offender was a caretaker for the victim. Examples of caretakers include a parent who kills their child, a babysitter who kills his or her charge, a nursing home attendant who kills a patient, and an adult who kills a dependent elderly parent. This variable is included because some definitions of child abuse and elder abuse are based solely on whether the offender was the victim’s caretaker.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Abuse	Evidence of ongoing abuse:	SV_Relation	Checkbox	1	O	CME
CareTk	Caretaker of victim:	SV_Relation	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR

### Response Options:

Abuse and CareTk

0 No, Not Collected, Not Available, Unknown

1 Yes

### Data Standards or Guidelines

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**Victim Suspect Relationship (Police Report)**

**Type of VS social relationship 1: Rela1**

**Type of VS social relationship 2: Rela2**

**Evidence of ongoing abuse: Abuse**

**Caretaker of victim: CareTk**

*See V-S Relation/CME Elements for information regarding variable(s) appearing above.*

**Type of VS violence relation: VSRel**  
**SHR relationship of victim to suspect: SRelat**

Name	Definition
VSRel	Was this victim killed by this suspect?
SRelat	Social relationship of victim to suspect reported in SHR

**Uses**

Data describing the relationship between the victim and the person who caused the injury are useful for developing and evaluating prevention programs and for characterizing various forms of family and intimate partner violence.

**Discussion**

“SRelat” should capture the victim-suspect relationship exactly as it appears in the Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). Codes should be entered exactly as they appear in the source database, even if the abstractor believes an individual code was chosen in error. If your state uses any codes for relationship that do not appear in the standard FBI code list below, find out from your state UCR office how it will be mapped to the standard national codes, and enter that code. If the SHR is not available, code the case as 88. The SHR also captures the link between each victim and suspect in an incident. That information can be recorded here. It may be useful if the SHR is the only source of such information for an incident.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
VSRel	Type of VS violence relationship: SV_Relation	SV_Relation	Number	1	LR	SHR
SRelat	HR relationship Sof victim to suspect: SV_Relation	SV_Relation	Number	2	O	SHR

**Response Options:**

**VSRel**

- 1 Victim was killed by suspect
- 2 Victim was not killed by suspect
- 9 Unknown

**SRelat**

- 1 Husband
- 2 Wife
- 3 Common-law husband
- 4 Common-law wife
- 5 Mother
- 6 Father
- 7 Son
- 8 Daughter
- 9 Brother

- 10 Sister
- 11 In-law
- 12 Stepfather
- 13 Stepmother
- 14 Stepson
- 15 Stepdaughter
- 16 Other Family
- 17 Neighbor
- 18 Acquaintance
- 19 Boyfriend
- 20 Girlfriend
- 21 Ex-husband
- 22 Ex-wife
- 23 Employee
- 24 Employer
- 25 Friend
- 26 Homosexual Relationship
- 27 Other - Known to Victim
- 28 Stranger
- 88 Not applicable
- 99 Relationship Unknown

**Data Standards or Guidelines**

FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Supplementary Homicide Report